Diamond Anniversary

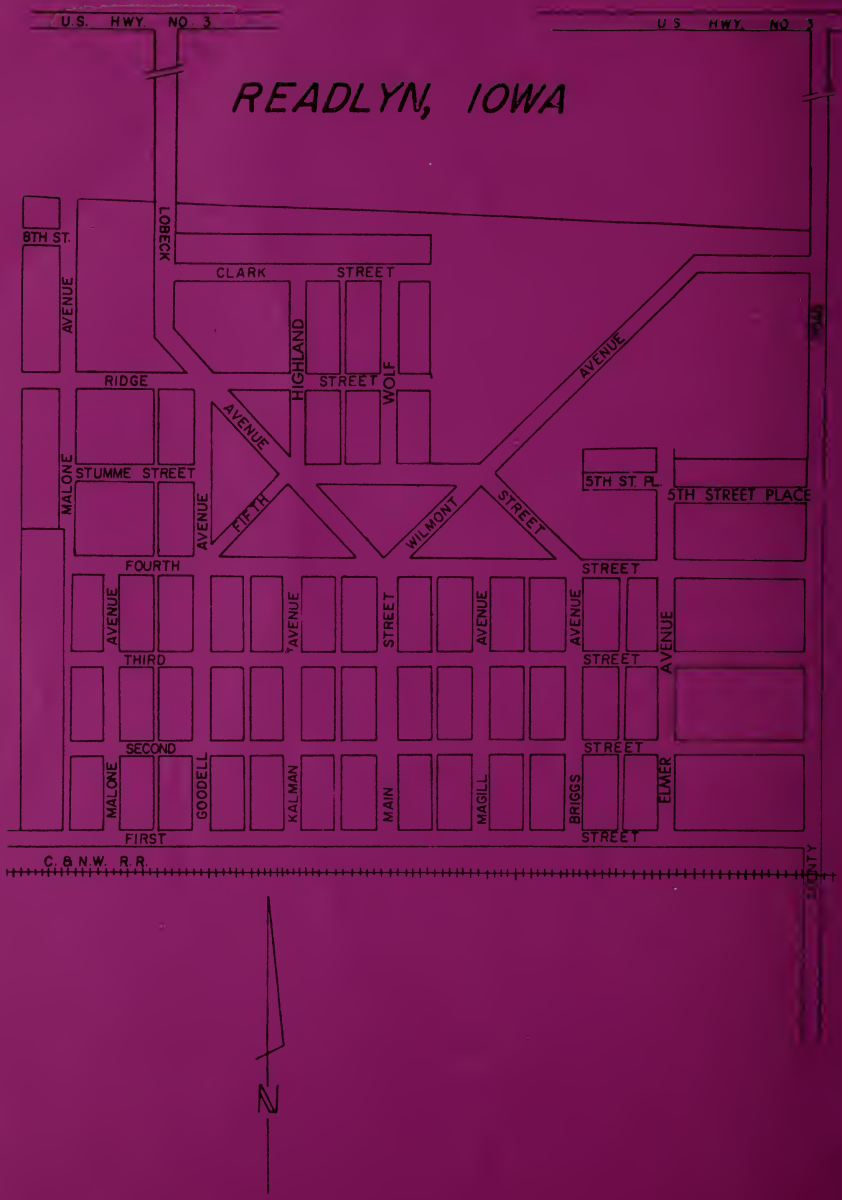
75th Year

Town of Readlyn, Iowa

1904 – 1979

Celebration

June 15, 16, 17, 1979


READLYN, IOWA
U.S. HWY. NO. 3
U.S. HWY. NO. 3
8TH ST.
LOBECK
AVENUE
CLARK
STREET
HIGHLAND
WOLF
STREET
RIDGE
AVENUE
AVENUE
MALONE
STUMME STREET
FIFTH
AVENUE
WILMONT
STREET
5TH ST. PL.
5TH STREET PLACE
FOURTH
STREET
AVENUE
AVENUE
STREET
AVENUE
AVENUE
AVENUE
THIRD
STREET
SECOND
STREET
MALONE
GOODELL
KALMAN
MAIN
MAGILL
BRIGGS
ELMER
FIRST
STREET
C. & N.W. R.R.
COUNTY
N

Readlyn History

That section of the Chicago Great Western railway between Waverly and Oelwein was built and in operation in year 1903. It cut across Maxfield Township, entering on Section 12, traversing the township in a direct line due west, leaving the township at Section 7.

In 1903 certain enterprising citizens in the neighborhood prevailed upon the authorities of the railroad to establish a station at a point on its line within this magnificent farming district, to enable them to have a closer market for their products. The request was acceded to and the company established a stopping point on Section 11. Appreciating the generous compliance with their wishes, those active in the movement and living in the vicinity named the town Readlyn, in compliment of Read, one of the officials.

Active preparations were at once made for the laying out of a town. To this end a public sale of lots was advertised and on November 10, 1903, a large number of building sites was disposed of by the Iowa Town Site Company, which had platted and laid out the town and in a short time several substantial buildings were put up. The first building erected was a residence by George Vanderwalker.

On October 26, 1904, the enthusiastic citizens of the young village voted on the proposition of incorporating the town of Readlyn. The election disclosed the fact that 29 ballots had been cast in favor of the project and not one vote was in the negative. At this time there were less than 50 persons living within the corporate limits but they were all so united for the betterment of the town that public improvements were discussed and carried out at an early date. At the same election which resulted in the incorporation of Readlyn, the following officials were elected to govern the affairs of the little municipal corporation: Mayor, George Vanderwalker; Treasurer, J. D. Brooks; Hevry Klemp and Herman Thran.

Among the early business concerns in the town was a lumber yard. Soon a number of business places were in operation and everything bid fair to the realization of the hopes of the profectors of the trading point. In 1904, the same year the town was incorporated, the Readlyn Creamery was built. Herman Thran built a meat market and the post office was established. In 1908 Poock & Meier built a harness shop and Christ Miller moved his blacksmith shop from Klinger to Readlyn. Many more businesses were established but the exact dates are not known and for that reason are not mentioned.

Quite a dampener, however, was placed on their enthusiam when, on the night of September 9, 1912, the greater portion of the business district was destroyed by fire, occasioning a loss of about twenty thousand dollars. No one was dismayed by the disaster. The debris was soon cleared away and better and more substantial structures took the place of the old ones. But everyone was taught a lesson and the movement was at once advanced for the erection of a waterworks system. To this end the question of bonding the town for $6,000 to be used in the building of a waterworks system, was submitted to the suffrage of the citizens on the 10th of February, 1913, and was carried practically by unanimous vote. At this election there were 91 votes cast and but six of them were against the proposition of building a waterworks. It should be added in justice to the women that of the 27 feminine votes cast, every one was for the improvement. The work of laying mains was at once pushed rapidly forward, a water tank with a capacity of 30,000 gallons

was erected on a steel tower 100 feet in height and by the 1st of September, 1913, the system was practically completed. This included a well 108 feet deep.

On Main Street was constructed a concrete building to be used as a pumping station. The water is of fine quality and in sufficient quantity to give the citizens a plentiful supply of their daily uses and afford the town ample protection for fire. The pressure is about one hundred pounds. The building is also used for a council room and jail.

Readlyn is the youngest town in the county but it appears to be for the short time of its existence the best put up little place in this section of the state.

The fire of September 9, 1912, wiped out six business establishments and the telephone exchange. Those included the Henry Everding restaurant, the Otto Hahn barber shop and restaurant, the Wm. Klemp barber shop and pool hall, the J. W. Kehe drug store, and the J. A. Beckius hardware. The telephone exchange was located on the second floor above the drug store.

In the fall of 1914 another lot sale was held in the north part of town which is known as Wolf's Addition.

By 1916 the school enrollment had increased and a second one room grade school was built.

In January of 1918 electricity was made available to the citizens of Readlyn. Power lines were built by Tegtmeier Bros. from Westgate to Readlyn. Soon thereafter lines were built in the rural areas surrounding Readlyn.

In 1932 the water mains were extended to various parts of town and all mains were hooked in a circuit.

In 1934 Readlyn entered into an agreement with the City of Cedar Falls to buy their electricity from them. Six miles of high line was built to hook up with the Cedar Falls line. The town then built its own distribution system and has been retailing electricity to its citizens since that time.

In 1935 the high school building was built which housed both the high school and grade students.

In 1947 a new well was dug to supply water for its residents. The new well had a depth of 208 feet and was so constructed to meet the most rigid health requirements.

In 1950 all streets were blacktopped.

In 1953 the Community Building was completed.

June 10-11-12 of 1954 saw Readlyn celebrate its Golden Anniversary with a carnival, Old Settlers Picnic, Baseball games, Band Concerts, Fireworks and a Parade of more than a mile in length.

In 1955 the water mains were again extended as they have been many times since.

Two new water wells were drilled to replace the old well. One in 1958 and the other in 1960. A filter system for the water was installed in 1959. These two wells still supply the town with all of its water needs.

On November 3, 1959, an election was held on changing the purchase of electrical power from Cedar Falls to Interstate Power Company. Results were 123 yes, 3 no, 4 spoiled and 9 blanks. I guess those 9 could not make up their minds either way.

In 1960 it was new steel lights for main street.

Sub-divisions accepted extending the size of the city were: 1959, the Meier addition; 1961, the Happel addition; 1969 and 1970, the Berryhill addition; 1970, the Becker addition; 1972, the Matthias addition; 1977, the Kuker addition.

In 1966, Peoples Natural Gas came to town.

In 1967 it was sanitary sewer and paving of Main Street and 1968 saw the new library.

The street paving project was started in 1976 and continues each year.

1976: Readlyn, along with all the nation, celebrated our country's 200th birthday.

1977: A new tennis court was built with money earned during the bi-centennial.

1978: The ball park was rebuilt making it one of the finest in the state.

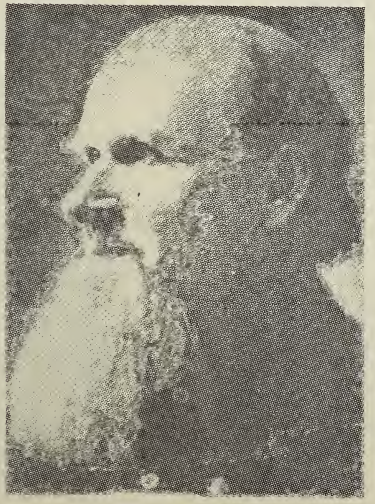
Completion of the 16 unit senior citizen housing was in January, 1979.

Readlyn has two city-owned parks. One at the north end of Main Street is the scene of many group gatherings and family reunions during the summer months. It is equipped with a tennis court, swings, playground equipment and picnic shelters. The other, known as the Athletic Park is located in the northeast part of town. It has a large lighted tennis court, playground equipment, picnic shelter and one of the finest softball parks in the state.

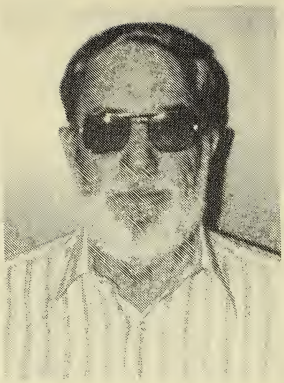
Readlyn has no major industries but has 23 retail establishments, one doctor, one veterinary, two construction crews, local telephone exchange and is home of the Readlyn Mutual Insurance Association.

Readlyn has 252 well-kept homes, a senior citizen housing development and 17 apartments. It now has a population of 661 and is looking to the future with confidence.

First Mayor

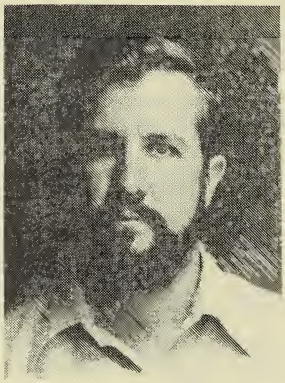


Geo. Vanderwalker



Mayor James E. Barber

Donald Billhorn



Larry Boerschel

Allen Buchholz

Keith Fettkether

Mrs. Betty Koschmeder

H. Rathe, Clerk

Wm. Brooks

Geo. Winegar

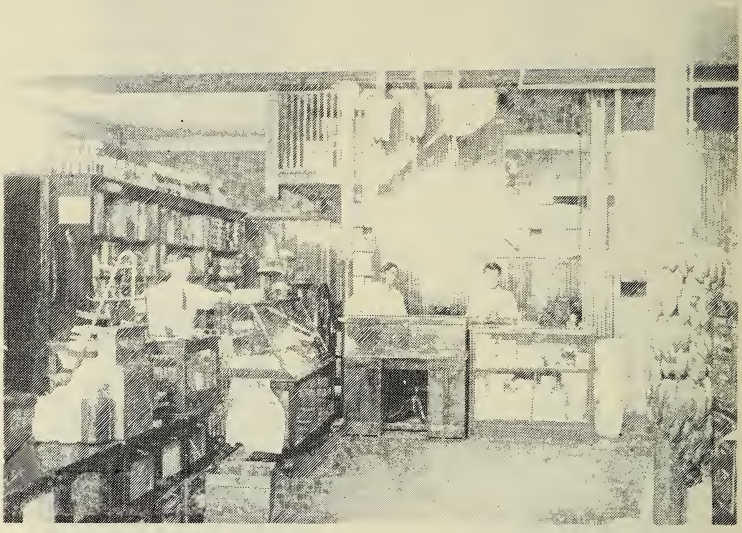
H. Thran

C.J. Koensfer

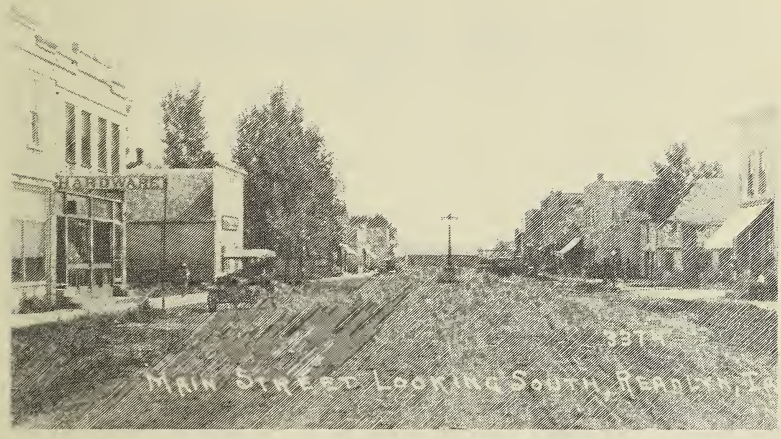
J.D. Brooks, Treasurer

H. Klemp

Dr. H.R. Feiker



The Readlyn grocery stores of 1916 and 1979 are compared in these photographs.



A lot of change is evident in these two photos of Main Street in Readlyn looking South.

Fire Department

With the founding of the Town of Readlyn, a form of fire protection had to be arraigned and at this writing, the first records cannot be found, so the early history of the Readlyn Volunteer Fire Department is taken more or less from the memory of the early residents of Readlyn.

The first fire department was composed of eight men and the equipment at the time was a fire bell to give the alarms and one two-wheel chemical engine or extinguisher which had to be pulled by hand or behind a team and wagon.

This equipment was used to handle the fire on the west side of Main Street in 1912. Water was carried in pails, tubs and anything available from the private wells of the town's residents, so the fire department and the people of Readlyn should be commended for their excellent performance in averting a major disaster.

The installation of a water distribution system brought about the need for a better organized fire protection system, so on August 27, 1913, a meeting of the citizens was called to order by Mayor George Vanderwalker for the purpose of electing 12 citizens to constitute the Readlyn Volunteer Fire Department. The men elected were: F. L. Diekmann, C. W. Diekmann, C. H. Poock, Ernest Spier, E. C. Stumme, John Niedert, F. H. Meyer, Dem Mersch, Herman Bock, H. G. Moeller, H. F. Klemp and Herman Thran.

On September 2, 1913, the Town Council met and approved the election of the firemen and the minutes of the citizens' meeting. The newly elected firemen held their first meeting on September 3, 1913, at which time 38 Articles and By-Laws were adopted. These same articles and by-laws are still in effect with but few changes or additions. Election of officers was held and F. L. Diekmann was elected chief, which position he held until 1935; Assistant Chief, Dem Mersch; Secretary, E. C. Stumme; Treasurer, H. G. Moeller; Trustees, C. H. Poock and H. F. Klemp. It was also agreed that fire alarms were to be sounded with a series of three taps of the fire bell.

At the end of the year 1913 the records show the fire department consisted of one two-wheel chemical engine; one two-wheel hose cart; approximately 500-feet of 2½ inch hose; 2 nozzels; 2 roof ladders; 2 32-foot extension ladders; one 20-foot single ladder; one ladder wagon; two fire hooks; one chain and hook; two lanterns; one hydrant pump; four coats; 4 hats.

Records of the first Fireman's Benefit Dance held in December, 1913, tell us that 86 $1.00 dance tickets were sold and 10 25 cent spectator tickets were sold. There has been no change in the price of Fireman's Dance tickets up to date.

During the year 1917 four extra firemen were added to the department, bringing the total members to 16.

On May 7, 1918, a fire siren was purchased with donations of $2.50 from each business place and each dwelling in Readlyn. The siren was placed on top of the Town Hall, where it has remained to date. The first smoke masks were purchased by the town council in 1922.

Mr. E. C. Stumme served as secretary of the fire department from September 3, 1913, until his death on December 16, 1934. His death was the first among the active members of the department since its organization in 1913 and the first among the original 12 members.

In December, 1936, the Town Council purchased the first fire truck. It consisted of two chemical tanks and hose mounted on an International

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1904 1979

Our 75th Anniversary

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chassis. This truck was without a cab and was purchased from the city of Waterloo, Iowa.

With the increasing demand for more and better fire protection in the farming area, it became necessary to have a community-owned fire truck that could legally be used outside the Town of Readlyn.

Chief O. R. Thran called a joint meeting of farmers and firemen and it was decided to put on a drive to raise funds to purchase a community truck. The goal was set for $25.00 per farm and $10.00 per house in the area to be served by the truck. The men went in teams of one fireman and one farmer. The drive being successful, a committee of three farmers and three firemen was elected to purchase the new truck and equipment. They purchased from the Hooker Supply Company a 500-gallon per minute pumper mounted on a Ford Chassis with 2-speed axle. This truck was delivered in the summer of 1946.

National fire magazines have given recognition to the Readlyn Fire Department for their original and efficient method of transporting a continuous supply of water to rural fires.

In 1950 the use of the chemical truck was discontinued and a new Chevrolet truck was purchased and equipped with ladders and hose. This was done to assure fire protection to the residents of Readlyn while the community truck is on duty in the country.

Since the delivery of the community truck to the Readlyn Volunteer Fire Department in 1946 it has been on 61 fire calls, 52 in the country and nine in the Town of Readlyn and the property saved is many times the original cost of the truck.

Having been asked many times as to the salary of the volunteer firemen; the only reward the firemen receive is an annual chicken dinner and an annual oyster and chili supper, the expense of which is taken from membership dues and for fines payed for not attending meetings or practices.

In late 1963 and early 1964, rural taxation was approved, which permitted the cost of fire protection to be shared equally by the farmers of the township and the people of Readlyn.

In 1964, a new Dodge pumper was purchased to replace our 1946 Ford pumper. The 1946 Ford is still in the department and used as a backup truck. A water tanker was added to carry water to rural fires. The latest addition, a 4-wheel drive pick-up, to fight grassfires. This unit has its own water supply and pumper unit.

The department sponsors a benefit dance annually each spring. To maintain and purchase equipment for the department and firemen. Oxygen masks for interior fires, a recessitator for accident victims, and department has purchased with these funds.

Meetings are held once a month. In the winter training films are used, and in the summer months practice sessions are held at night to keep us familiar with our equipment. We currently have 12 men on the department certified to perform C.P.R.

In January of 1979, a County Firefighters Organization was formed. The purpose of this organization is to promote a uniform working relationship with other departments in the county, when the need for assistance should arise.

Readlyn Fire Department 25 years ago had 18 men on it. Today, we still maintain 18 volunteer men on the deparmtnet with the same common goal in mind: To better serve the people of Readlyn and the surrounding area.

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READLYN MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOC

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Secretary-Manager

OFFICE
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RESIDENCE
283-4983

Members of the Readlyn Fire Department are: Back row, left to right: Burton Thies — Fire Chief; Tim Masker, LeRoy Platte, Bob Schmidt, Harold Wehling, Dan Wedemeier and Virgil Matthias; Middle row, left to right: Jerald Latwesen, Milton Happel, Hartley Seydel, Gary Lee Thurm, and Frank Trzaskos; and Front row, left to right: Larry Lee, Rich Matthias, Larry Steege, Doug McConnelee and Bob Meyer.

Readlyn Mutual Insurance Association

About 100 years ago settlers from the overpopulated regions of Germany came to Maxfield township, Bremer County and established homes on the fertile soil of this beautiful, spacious land of ours.

Untold hardships had to be endured crossing the great Atlantic Ocean on sailships, finding their way in a strange land to Chicago and then in covered wagons over the prairie to Bremer County.

How grateful they were owning quarter sections of land where in the old world they had little of nothing. With relentless determination, hard work and long hours the rich soil was worked and produced rich harvests. Buildings, though small, were erected, and churches and schools were built.

Every year more settlers arrived from the home villages and were welcomed and helped to a new beginning. There was a true, unselfish spirit of sharing.

It was around 1870 when one of the old pioneers through a fire lost everything he had built up. Neighbors had come to help and were deeply moved when their friend, standing on a heap of ashes, cried out, "All is gone, we are ruined, what shall I do?" With one accord they answered, "We all will help you build a new home and buildings."

They gave money for new material and assisted to erect it. This deed of

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Readlyn, Ia.
279-3301

JERALD LATWESEN , Mgr.

kindness and sharing prompted some to suggest giving a certain sum annually to have money available if another calamity of fire, lightning or tornado should come about.

A meeting was called September 26, 1875, and a company was formed under the name of The German Mutual Fire, Lightning and Windstorm Assessment Association of the Farmers of Maxfield and Vicinity.

The first officers to serve were John Meier, Julius Dorn and Henry Poock.

The records from 1875-1883 were lost but judging from the list of names the secretary, Julius Dorn, entered into the ledger, the membership in this organization must have increased rapidly, for not only farmers of Maxfield township, but also of the adjoining townships of Bennington, Mt. Vernon, Jefferson, Dayton, Warren, Douglas, Franklin, and Fremont.

At first the house and barn were insured, but soon household goods, cattle and grain are mentioned.

Houses were insured for $250-$500, farm buildings from $400-$800, stove at $25, one dozen chairs $3, table $4, bed $25. At first 25c for every $100 insurance was levied. Later on a levy of one mill was assessed, then 1½ mills and in recent years the average was 2½ mills.

From May 1883-January 1884, in 8 months, $55,431 insurance was written. In 1895, 20 years after its founding, statutes were issued in printed form with 15 articles and 16 by-laws. Three directors were added to constitute a Board of Directors to manage the business of the company.

The secretary was allowed $1.50 for every day spent in discharge of his official duties. Other officers had a compensation set by the board of directors.

Again in 1915 new articles of incorporation were drawn up to comply with the laws of the State of Iowa. Readlyn was selected to be the principle place of business.

The protocol was signed by John Widdel as president and Henry Matthias as secretary. The old name was dropped and the name of Readlyn Mutual Insurance Association accepted, in 1937. A permanent structure to be used as the home office was erected in 1952.

The above history was written a number of year ago by some of the early officers of the company.

Many changes have taken place in the last 25 years in farming technology and homeowners needs. This has dictated changes in insurance for our members. The company has continued to grow and prosper and insurance in force now total nearly 150 million dollars.

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Equipment Sales & Service

Yazoo Master Mowers
Sales & Service

Ted M. Bair

Agency, Inc.

COMPLETE
INSURANCE SERVICE

Auto-Home-
Business-Life

Office
279-3234

Residence
283-4983

Readlyn Mutual Insurance Association

Readlyn Telephone Company

Telephone service was started in the Readlyn area in 1906, and in November 1907 the Readlyn Telephone Company was first incorporated. The first president was Mr. Wm. Shanwise, vice-president, Mr. Henry Schutte, secretary-treasurer, Mr. Fred Dickmann. Directors on the board were Fred Schoof, H. H. Meyer, Henery Westendorf, Carl Bruns, and J. J. Schumacher.

The original manual switchboard was lost in the fire of 1912 as it was located above the drugstore on Main Street. About a year later a new board was installed above the barbershop in the building owned by William Klemp. It was later moved to 121 Main Street to a house that served as an office and living space for the operators.

In 1965 a new building was built at this location to house the new dial equipment that was placed in service in December, 1963 to handle local calls only. It was not until February 1964 that toll calls could be placed without the help of an operator in Readlyn. At that time this brought to an end a long list of operators that worked for the company and served the community. Mr. John Trost, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Meier, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Graybell, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Heineman, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Knief, Clara and Adella, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Schumacher, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold C. Poock can be recalled as operators.

In 1970 a business office, director meeting room was added to the dial building.

The company's first lines were all above ground with one of the first lines running south to the Klinger Store with more than twenty people on it. As the years passed the aerial lines gave much trouble with the ice and wind storms and were replaced with buried cables starting in 1972. This was completed in 1978 and at that time all phones were changed to private lines in the rural as well as in town. Touch tone calling was added in January 1979.

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Wilbert Bergman
Readlyn **Phone 279-3364**

Two pictures of the $100,000 fire that destroyed six businesses and the telephone exchange on September 9, 1912.

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Anything Suitable for Outdoor Setting
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446 E. 3rd St. **READLYN** **279-3414**

Wayne Teisinger Post No. 5661
Veterans of Foreign Wars

In December of 1945 a group of returning veterans of Readlyn and surrounding territory gathered at a meeting and decided to form a veterans service organization in Readlyn. Finally on June 22, 1946, the V.F.W. was duly organized. A ritual team from Post 2478, Sumner, Iowa, came to Readlyn to give the obligation and present the Cross of Malta.

The first officers for the post were: Stanley Gehrke, commander; John Maurer, senior vice-commander; James Klodt, junior vice-commander; Melvin Richmann, quartermaster; Earl Rommel, chaplin; Elmer Bruns, surgeon; Leroy Baurer, post advocate; Herman Oltrogge, 3 year trustee; Arnold Hesse, 2 year trustee; Eric Harms, 1 year trustee.

At the meeting of February 5, 1946 it was voted and passed to name the post Wayne Teisinger Post No. 5661 in honor of a local boy who gave his life in defense of his country.

The first meetings were held in the hall above the grocery store owned by Victor Happel. Soon the post moved upstairs above the tavern operated by O. R. Thran.

The present post home is located on main street in a building formerly used as a hardware store. Extensive remodeling has been done on both the interior and exterior.

The post makes its hall available to churches and various youth groups in the area to support their activities. The post also has various pieces of hospital equipment for use by anyone in our area.

Each year the post organizes Memorial Day services in the local park. In 1978 an avenue of flags was dedicated during the Memorial Day services.

Each year the post gives a citizenship award to a graduating student at Wapsie Valley High School. The school faculty helps in the picking of the finalists. The final decision is made by a committee of members from the post.

Membership is the strength of any organization such as ours. We welcome all eligible veterans to join the V.F.W. Our present membership is 60.

Readlyn Schools

On July 2, 1906, W. Brooks, T. W. Matthiesen, H. E. Dunham, John Beckius and L. H. Meyer were elected to the school board. J. W. Hough and George Vanderwalker, also elected, were secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Thirty-one ballots were cast in the July 12, 1906 election to issue a $1,430.00 bond to build a school house. The bond issue carried by a vote of 24 to 7.

Mrs. E. C. Hodges was the first teacher. She opened school on January 14, 1907. She received a salary of $35 per month.

Mrs. Hodges resigned April 22. Miss Nell Shellman took her place at the same salary.

Lily Holt Schaal began teaching in Readlyn September 2, 1907. She, too, received $35.00 per month. Her contract contained the clause, "It is further agreed that should the above named teacher resign before the entire team of school is finished, the board will hold back one month's salary."

Miss Lillian Clach replaced Miss Schaal. She received $45.00 per

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month. Miss Clach taught until December 5, 1910, when Miss Kathryn Ronan replaced her.

The 1910 tax levy was a sfollows: $400.00 for teachers fund; $200.00 for contingent fund; $200.00 for schoolhouse fund. Total $800.00.

In the fall of 1911 Miss Alice Sunderson began teaching in Readlyn. She continued until March 6, 1913. Miss Smith replaced her.

The tax levy for July 1, 1913, was: Teachers fund, $350.00; contingent fund, $150.00; schoolhouse fund, $200.00.

Teachers wages were raised to $50.00 per month. Miss Augusta Propp was hired. She continued until March 16, 1914. Miss Pearle Steele took her place. Miss Esther Daniels taught from 1914 through 1916 at $55.00 per month.

The proposition, "Shall the board of directors of the Independent School District of Readlyn be authorized to issue bonds for $700 for the purpose of constructing and equipping an additional schoolhouse for Readlyn?" was presented to the voters March 13, 1916.

It was decided to build the second school and two teachers, Miss Frieda Mueller and Miss Emma Grossman were hired for the 1916-17 school year.

J. W. Judas contracted to build the second building for $1,000.

The July 1, 1916 tax levy was: Schoolhouse, $1,000; teachers fund, $375.00; contingent fund, $125.00.

Fred Judas bought the hay on the schoolhouse grounds for $1.25.

Emma Grossman and Neva Baumgartnee taught through the 1917-1918 school year.

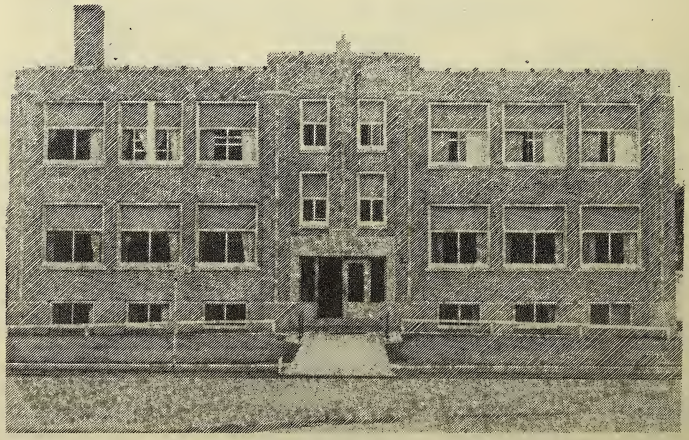
J. W. Judas contracted to build the second building for $1,000.

The July 1, 1916 tax levy was: Schoolhouse, $1,000; teachers fund, $375.00; contingent fund, $125.00.

Fred Judas bought the hay on the schoolhouse grounds for $1.25.

Emma Grossman and Neva Baumgartnee taught through the 1917-1918 school year.

1918-1919 school year found Miss Baumgartnee and Maude Noble teaching in the Readlyn schools. The same two taught during the 1919-1920 school year. They were paid $100.00 per month.



The Readlyn Elementary School

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The tax levy in 1920 was as follows: general fund, $2,000.00; schoolhouse fund, $250.00; janitor, $3.00 per week.

Emma Kiesal and Gertrude Wade taught in 1920 and 1921. In 1921 and 1922 Paul Meier and Ella Greenley taught.

Instructor for 1922 and 1923 were Esthella Van Dorn and Helen Krueger. 1923 and 1924 found the same two teaching.

The 1925 tax levy was $4,000.00 for the general fund.

Erna Steege and Paula Maas taught in 1925 and 1926. They earned $95.00 per month.

Running water was piped into both school houses in 1926.

The same two teachers remained at Readlyn for the next two years. 1928 found Paula Maas teaching with Lillian Ernsting. Lillian Ernsting remained for the next year. She was joined by Anne Schoembohm.

Tax levy for 1930 was: $4,260.00, general fund, and $500.00, schoolhouse fund.

1930-1931 teachers were Margaret Ross and Margaret Kane.

In 1931 a partition was put in the west schoolhouse, making two classrooms. Ninth and tenth graders were then added. The teachers for that year were Margaret Ross, Margaretta Leigh and Helen Imbough.

The hiring of A. N. Busse in 1934 marked the beginning of many steps toward builidng and equipping a new high school.

The teachers for that year were Margeret Ross, Marvel Meeknsa and A. N. Busse.

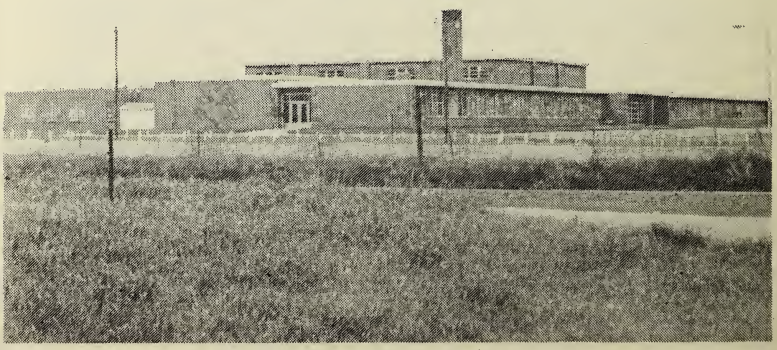
On February 9, 1935, the school board hired John Ralston as architect. On May 16, 1935, an election was held as to whether Readlyn should construct and equip a new high school. The bond issue was for $7,000.00. Two hundred, twenty-nine ballots were cast with 162 votes in favor and 67 against.

The enrollment for the first full year of high school was 45 in high school and 30 in grade school.

Now there are 107 in high school and 177 in grade school.

The superintendents from 1936 to 1954 were A. N. Busse, G. D. Hiatt and Stephen Wieland.

In 1957 Readlyn joined with Oran and Fairbank to form the present Wapsie Valley School system.



Wapsie Valley School

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Friday June 15

Bratwurst Supper

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Kiddie Parade

For children 12 and under at 6:00 p.m.; Drawing for kids prizes following the parade.

"75 Alive" Pageant

Two Shows - 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Admission; Adults $1.50, Children $1.00

Saturday June 16

Parade

At 10:00 a.m.

Polka Fest

On Main Street 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ond Jubilee

Events

Beef and Pork Supper

Serving at 5:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Pork Producers and Beef Producers.

Disco Dance

By the Ball Park in Readlyn, 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Drawing for over $750 in prizes

Drawing to be held at 10:00 p.m. on Main Street, Readlyn, Iowa. Prizes include a Simplicity 19'' Lawn Mower, 12'' Black & White TV, Randix AM/FM/TV Sound Radio, and many more. $1.00 donation; Need not be present to win.

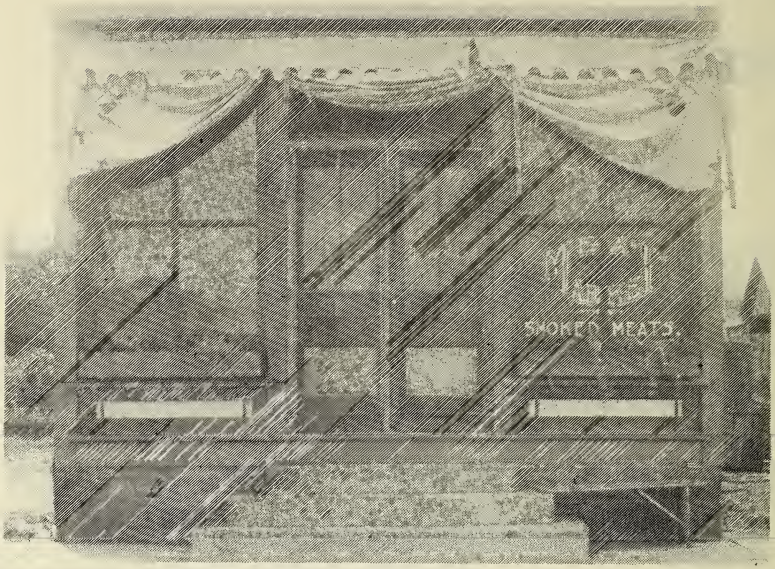
Sunday June 17

Church Services

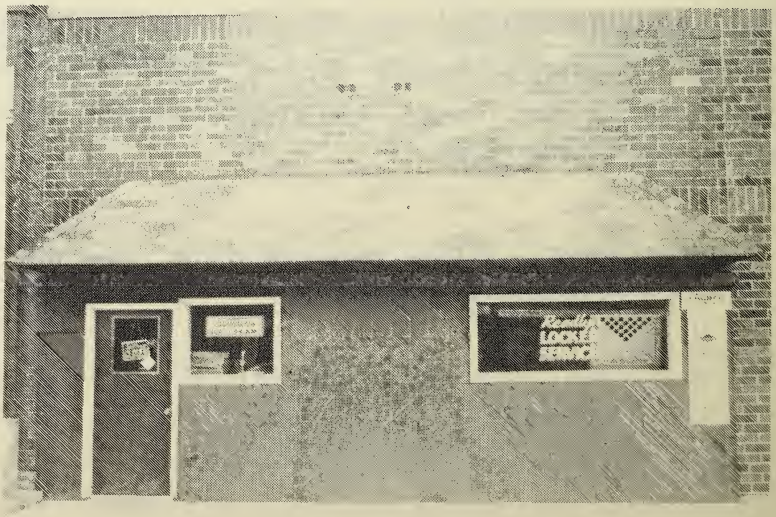
In the City Park 9:00 a.m.

Pot Luck Dinner

Following Church Services



Readlyn's first meat market, above, was established in 1904. The present day Readlyn Locker Service is pictured below.



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Readlyn Savings Bank in the early 1900's

Readlyn Savings Bank

In the realy part of the year, 1904, a few of the citizens of the surrounding territory of the new organized Town of Readlyn, Iowa, met in the Chicago Great Western Railroad depot, the only available meeting place in the unbuilt town at the time, for the purpose of providing the community with banking facilities. They realized that the new community with its adjoining dairy industry and rich farm lands created a necessity for supplying the people a means for transacting their business with speed and convenience. After several meetings, it was decided to organize the Readlyn Savings Bank with a starting capital of $10,000.00. Today's capital is $50,000.00. In 1961 the bank outgrew the original facilities, which were erected in 1904. An adjacent building to the north was then purchased. Remodeling started immediately and was completed by the fall of 1962. An open house for the new facilities was held in June 1963. Drive-up facilities were installed in 1979.

Although starting with a small and humble beginning, the Readlyn Savings Bank has steadily grown and kept pace with the changing periods of time. Even during the depression, when banks all over the country were forced to close, the Readlyn Savings Bank was able to maintain business functions. Readlyn Savings Bank continues to serve the banking needs of the community. It has maintained its place in the community and grown with it, as can clearly be observed from the following figures of deposits through the years.

Deposits as of June 15, 1905 (one year after opening date)	$ 35,608.36
Deposits as of December 1914	228,862.02
Deposits as of December 1924	551,129.69
Deposits as of December 1934	314,985.07
Deposits as of December 1944	774,529.95
Deposits as of January 1, 1954	1,148,784.13
Deposits as of January 1, 1964	1,521,224.46
Deposits as of January 1, 1979	9,030,353.63

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On June 15, 1904, the bank officially opened for business, with the following officers elected: H. Wm. Meyerhoff, President; Carl Bruns, Vice-President; and J. W. Haugh, Cashier. The first Board of Directors was: Carl Bruns, Alfred Hanson, J. W. Haugh, H. Wm. Meyerhoff, Aug. H. Moeller, J. J. Schumacher and Aug. W. Wittenburg.

During the seventy-five years of operation, growth and propsperity the following people served as officers.

H. Wm. Meyerhoff as first President for a period of 34 years, from 1904 to 1938, and as chairman of the Board of Directors for a period of ten years, from 1938 until the time of his death in 1948. His son, Aug. F. Meyerhoff, who was with the bank since 1923 in various poisitions, was elected president in 1938 and held that position until his death in 1964. Burton C. Stumme was elected president in 1965, and has held that position for the last 14 years.

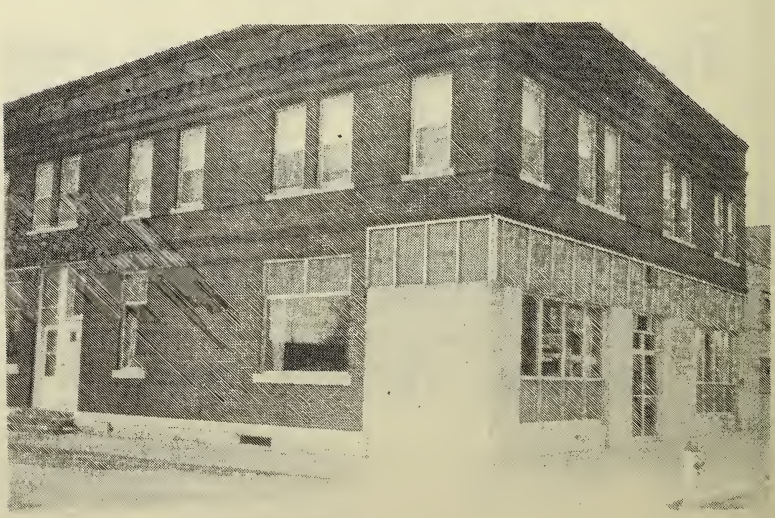
Carl Bruns was the first vice-president, and served in that capacity for 26 years, from 1904 to 1930. The succeeding vice-president were: John Widdel, 1930 to 1937, H. J. Schumacher, 1937 to 1940, and Lorenz Matthias, 1940 to 1979. Lorenz has also served as chairman of the board since 1965.

The various cashiers have been J. W. Hough, 1904-1910, E. C. Stumme, 1910-1934, Louis Widdel, 1934-1940. Burton C. Stumme, present cashier, has been with the bnak since 1934. From 1934-1940 he held various positions, and from 1940 to 1979 serving as cashier.

Present officers, directors and employees of the bank as of 1979 are as follows:

Burton C. Stumme, President and Cashier; Virgil J. Matthias, Assistant Vice-President and Assistant Cashier; Janice Heineman, Assistant Cashier; Grace Kuethe, Teller; Glenyce Bruns, Teller; Lois Ganske, Teller.

Directors: Harold Kuhlmann, Herman Matthias, Lorenz Matthias, Ernest Richman, and Burton C. Stumme.



Readlyn Savings Bank in 1979

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READLYN
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MANAGER

Farmers Cooperative Company

The Farmers Cooperative Company had its early beginnings as the Readlyn Shipping Association which did a large livestock shipping business. About 1916 a number of the members began to urge the organization of a Farmers Cooperative. The board of the Shipping Association hestitated to encourage the organization of a Coop Company, but the idea persisted. At the annual meeting of the Shipping Association in 1919 a vote carried in favor of the farmers equity. A committee was appointed to sell stock to raise the needed $6,000 for this purpose.

In February, 1919 a meeting was called to organize. These directors were elected: John Strotmann, Herman Hay, Herman Matthias, H. H. Meyer, J. H. Richmann, Louis Matthias, and L. C. Warneke. A building was rented immediately and operations began. An application was made to Chicago Great Western but it took several months to get the site on the tracks where the company is now located. In 1920 the warehouse and coal sheds were erected.

On April 26, 1940, the company reorganized under Chapter 390.1 of the Code of Iowa of 1939.

A 99,000 bushel wood elevator was built in 1955. Then 1959 saw a new office and a 10' x 60' scale being added. A new feed mill and warehouse was constructed in 1961. 1964 was the first year that sales of $1,000,000 was achieved. The unification with the Waverly Cooperative was approved in 1966 and in 1967 the Waverly Elevator was purchased.

Custom spraying was added in 1973 with a Big A sprayer being purchased then and another added in 1976. 1976 also saw the 600,000 bushel concrete elevator along with a continuous flow dryer being constructed at Readlyn. In 1975 the company bought ground and built a 2,000 ton fertilizer plant at Shell Rock.

The following have been employed as managers in the past years: F. H. Hinrichs, W. H. Hesse, Herbert Poock, H. H. Thoms, Willard Sauerbrei, Warren Sauerbrei, Virgil Peters, and at the present time Bill Dettman is the manager.

The present board members are Orlyn Westendorf, president; Melvin Diercks, vice-president; Roland Lau, secretary; R. W. Tegtmeier, Archie Barkhoff, Harvey Carolus, and David Epley.

Today, with a larger share of the crop land having been tiled, use of commerical fertilizer, hybrid seed, bigger farm machinery, tractors, better breeding and feeding, the production of farm crops, livestock, eggs and dairy products has been increased tremendously in the farming industry. It's a certainty that it will be increased more yet. This has made a difference for increased service that a Farmers Coop can give.

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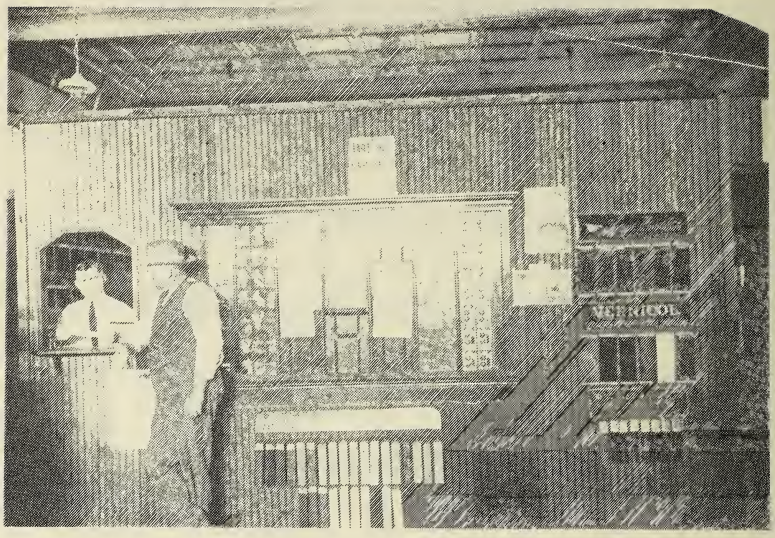
— Representatives —

Burton Thies Werner Fuhr



The first Readlyn Post Office is shown above. Today's modern Post Office is shown below.

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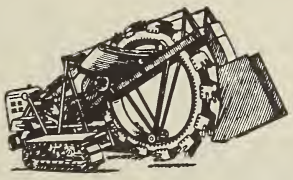

Ron Meyerhoff Tiling

Route 1
Readlyn, Ia.
Phone: 319-279-3673

St. Mathew's Lutheran Church

The history of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church begins with the German people who came and settled in the area. Most of them brought with them their Lutheran faith. Since it was a long way for them to go to church with horse and buggy — or even walking — to one of the neighboring churches, Pastor Paul Bredow, who was the mission-minded Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Maxfield, came to the homes of some of the people and conducted worship services.

It was finally decided by the people that they would organize a church, and on February 15, 1978, the congregation officially began to exist.

The new congregation called Ludwig Lobeck as its first pastor. After he completed his seminary training at Wartburg Seminary (then at Mendota, Illinois), Pastor Lobeck came to lead the new congregation. When he arrived, the new parsonage and church building were not yet completed. On August 18, 1978, Ludwig Lobeck was ordained into the Holy Ministry in the new Church and officially became its first pastor.

On the following Sunday, August 25, 1878, the first church was dedicated. It was a modest building — 20' x 30'! After ten years, this house of worship became too small. It was then used for the schoolhouse and for meetings of the various organizations. When the schoolhouse was no longer needed, it was sold and was moved into Readlyn and made into a house, where it still exists.

In 1888, it was decided to build a new church on the land to be bought from Heinrich Kuhlmann. The new church was 30' x 50' with arched windows and a steeple. It was built for about $2,000.00 and is the first part of the present house of worship.

In 1910, a 30' x 42' addition was built on the north end of the church, which then made the church into the form of a cross and which constitutes the same basic structure as it exists today. Of course, various other remodeling and improvements have been made over the years, including a new basement in 1949 and a new front entry in 1968.

St. Matthew's has had only six pastors in 100 years as follows:

Pastor Ludwig Lobeck, 1878-1908; Pastor Max O. Jahr, 1908-1917; Pastor Conrad Meyer, 1917-1935; Pastor Alfred Rausch, 1935-1941; Pastor Erich J. Dornbusch, 1941-1969; Pastor John Albrecht, 1969-present.

Pastor Albrecht has helped lead the congregation to celebrate its Centennial, which was celebrated on June 18, 1978. It was a joyous day of worship and meeting of old friends and confirmants. At the time of the Centennial, there were 1,041 recorded baptisms, 877 confirmations, 355 marriages and 412 funerals.

St. Matthew's presently has 273 communicant members, 377 baptized members, and 98 children enrolled in Sunday school.

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St. Mathew's Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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St. Paul Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is the first congregation to be founded in Readlyn, Iowa, having been organized on October 24, 1909, only five years after the founding of the town. This organization has its roots in the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger, Iowa, three miles south of Readlyn. As more and more members of Immanuel, Klinger, moved to Readlyn, the desire to organize a congregation in Readlyn grew. Charter members of St. Paul's were A. H. Moeller, H. W. Meyerhoff, Fred Strumpel, Christ Warneke, W. F. Meyerhoff, Fred Kraeft, Wm. Albrecht, John Judas, J. S. Kehe, F. L. Diekmann, C. W. Diekmann, Wm. Klemp, H. W. Meyer, Fred Diekmann, H. Griese and Christ Miller.

Beginning in the summer of 1908 Pastor R. Piehler of Klinger held services in the town hall. In the fall of 1909 the newly organized congregation decided to erect a house of worship. The cornerstone was laid on May 22, 1910. The new edifice was dedicated on September 25, 1910. Vicars H. F. Buettner and W. H. Cordts served the congregation until the fall of 1912 when the first resident pastor, the Rev. Herman Maas, came to St. Paul's. The parsonage was completed in November, 1912, shortly after the arrival of Pastor Maas. At the time of his leaving in 1926 the congregation had grown from fifteen families to 229 communicant members.

In the spring of 1914 the congregation purchased the three lots north of the church for the purpose of erecting a Christian day school, which was dedicated on November 12, 1916. At that time the enrollment was 48. Pastor Maas was the teacher. In the fall of 1926 the first regularly called teacher was installed, Mr. Fred Torgler.

In 1928 it was found necessary to build an addition to the church edifice. A new pipe organ was purchased and installed the same year.

In 1938 the congregation began to hold worship services in both English and German. German had been used exclusively prior to this time. The German services were discontinued in 1960.

In 1964 the congregation built a new four-classroom school building. In 1977 St. Paul Lutheran School and Immanuel Lutheran School of Klinger consolidated to form Community Lutheran School with the lower grades in Readlyn and the upper grades at Klinger. Current enrollment is 118, kindergarten through eighth grade, and forty-five in the three preschool classes. The school is served by seven faculty members. Mr. Bob Minner is the principal.

On March 13, 1977, ground was broken for a new church building. The cornerstone was laid on November 20, 1977, and the congregation held its first worship service in the new building on March 5, 1978. The official dedication of the building was on August 13, 1978. The last of the old church structure was torn down on April 24, 1978. Also as a part of the construction program the parsonage was moved to the north end of the church's lot and was completely redecorated and renovated.

Through the years the congregation has been served by Rev. Herman Maas, Rev. Theo. Frese, Rev. Mark Steege, Rev. George Koch, Rev. Alfred Ernst, Rev. J. L. Strelow, Rev. James Buckman, Rev. Fred Meyer. Rev. Dan Gilbert is currently serving as pastor.

The congregation has a current communicant membership of 320 and a baptized membership of 403 and is served by these societies: Ladies Aid,

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James Wolff-Vice President

Arnold Poock-Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Edgar Albrecht

Calvin Hesse

Arlin Matthias

R.J. Albright

Mary-Martha Circle, St. Paul's Youth, and the Lutheran Laymen's League.

Through the years God has blessed the members of St. Paul Church with good facilities and many other good things. But above all He has blessed us with the one true saving faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. We consider it a high honor that our God has called us, along with members of our town's other congregations, to this faith and to the task of spreading His good news of salvation. We pray that this will always be our witness to our town.

Zion Lutheran Church

The first steps toward the founding of a new congregation in Readlyn were taken on March 12, 1917, when Pastor M. O. Jahr and a number of families met in the Rudolph Tiedt home. Soon thereafter another meeting was held at which time the constitution of the Iowa Synod was adopted, and the name Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was chosen by the 38 charter members present; also, the plans were made for the erection of a new church building.

A meeting was held April 6, 1917 when the Rev. Paul Kumpf of Talmage, Nebraska was called to serve the new congregation. Under his guidance the congregation purchased suitable grounds for a new church; 10½ lots with an existing house for a parsonage in the east part of town for $4,100, from Mr. Rudolph Tiedt. The church building was completed in the fall and dedicated on Sunday, October 7, 1917. A Hinners pipe organ was purchased for the new church, also a 1400 pound bell. An electric motor was installed on this organ in 1919. The parsonage was enlaraged in 1927 by adding a kitchen, bedrooms upstairs and a basement.

The German language was used for the church services the first year. In 1918 an English service was conducted once a month on a Sunday evening. More and more services were in English until the German worship services were discontinued in 1966. Annual reports as well as the every Sunday envelope system was introduced in 1930. The first ushers were appointed in 1936.

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary on June 14, 1942, the congregation was privileged to have two of the men who had much to do with the beginnings of Zion serve as guest speakers: Pastor Max Jahr and Pastor Paul Kumpf; and also Pastor Herman Siefkes.

In subsequent years more improvements were made: church basement was remodeled in 1945; a new oil furnace was installed in 1946; new church kitchen cupboards and other necessary equipment in 1947. Colored art glass windows were installed in the summer of 1954 and

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dedicated on November 12.

The need for larger and better facilities was felt by the growing congregation. A new addition, overflow, church office, enclosed entryways, new kitchen, ten classrooms and a remodeled basement were completed in 1968. Twenty-six feet of additional land to the south fo the church was given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hagenow.

The fiftieth anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church and the Dedication of the new and old remodeled facilities was observed Sunday, August 4, 1968, with two sons of the congregation as guest speakers: Dr. Paul Moeller and Pastor Karl Landgrebe.

In the past year a new public address system was purchased with memorial gifts; wall to wall carpetng was laid in the parsonage and a new gas furnace was installed. Perpetual care for the cemetery was established with a fund now of some $4,000.00.

The congregation has been served by the following pastors: Paul Kumpf, 1917-1929; Harry Schultz, 1929-1932; Ernest Arhelger, 1932-1939; A. H. Landgrebe, 1939-1951, Elmer Jacobs, 1951-1964; Paul Schaedig, 1965-1971; Waldemar Gies, Interim Pastor, 1964-1965; 1971-1972; Bertrand Petrick, since July 1972.

To date there have been 505 baptisms administered; 480 confirmed; 171 marriages performed; 182 members whose funerals were conducted.

Zion's present membership numbers close to 500 souls; a Sunday Church School of 115; American Lutheran Church Women, Afternoon and Evening Circles, 51 members; 28 Luther League members; 25 Junior Choir members; 23 Senior choir members.

Looking back over the history of Zion Lutheran Church, one is compelled to confess God's rich and undeserved blessings, evident in so many ways.

Zion Lutheran Church

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279-3307 Readlyn

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Klinger

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Klinger had its beginning in 1873. The church was organized by eleven families and on March 3, 1873, twenty-six men signed the constitution. They decided to build a church and parsonage three miles southwest of Readlyn. The size of that church was 24 feet wide, 36 feet long, and 14 feet high. The size of the parsonage was 16 feet wide, 26 feet long, and 14 feet high. The cost of labor for the two buildings was $280.00. By 1893 the congregation had outgrown the church building, and a new one, 36 feet by 66 feet, was built. This church had an 85 foot tower and a sacristy 16 x 16 feet. This is the present building with several remodelings. In 1947 remodeling was done by extending the sanctuary and putting a full basement under the church. For the 1973 centennial celebration the project of a new church entrance was completed. In 1978 several stained glass windows were given to beautify the entry.

On August 21, 1879 the congregation was accepted as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states, but a year earlier in 1878 the congregation had already built a parochial school to train and educate their children in Christian doctrine. By 1910 it became necessary to build a new school even though that same year a number of members were released to from their own church in Readlyn. In 1912 a new parsonage was built, in 1922 English services were begun, in 1923 the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary and in 1924 the school building was enlarged to twice the size it had been formerly. In 1935 a young people's society was organized to join the Ladies Aid that had been organized three years earlier. Also in 1935 the so-called double-header services were initiated, German at 10 a.m. and English at 11 a.m. It was also resolved that Lenten services were to be held in the evenings instead of in the daytime as had been the custom in the past. The first Sunday School session was held in 1945.

In 1973 a centennial celebration was held to praise the Lord for His countless blessings. Three services were held that year in February, August, and October with Dr. John Zimmermann, Iowa District East President, and Rev. Edwin Weber, First Vice President of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, as guest speakers. On August 12th nearly 1,200 people were served as many friends, former members, former pastors, of the Immanuel Congregation joined in celebration. Meals were served to everyone and an outdoor tent, plus closed circuit television cameras helped make such a large event possible.

At this time the congregation numbers 279 communicant members and 372 baptized members. The present officers of the congregation are: chairman, Calvin Hesse; vice-chairman, Edwin Steinbronn; deacons, Melvin Diercks, Reinhardt Zars, and Arnold Schweer; trustees, Robert Hagenow, Wendell Matthias, and Venice Rathe; school board, Walter Hesse, Eugene Matthias, and Dennis Moeller; recording secretary, Ronald Schweer; financial secretary, Norbert Schmidt; treasurer, Arlin Poock; and collectors, Wilbert Huebner, Lewis Piehl, Herb Meier, and Mike Bellile.

The congregation has been served by 14 pastors and 57 teachers in its 106 year history. Some of those teachers married locally and are still members of the congregation. The former pastors are Rev. W. Kanning :1873-1877), Rev. Theo. Braeur (1877-1882), Rev. J. Horn (1882-1892), Rev. E. Jehn, (1892-1898), Rev. L. Knief (1898-1904), Rev. L. Piehler (1904-1911), Rev. L. Yockey (1911-1935), Rev. W. C. Vetter (1935-1943),

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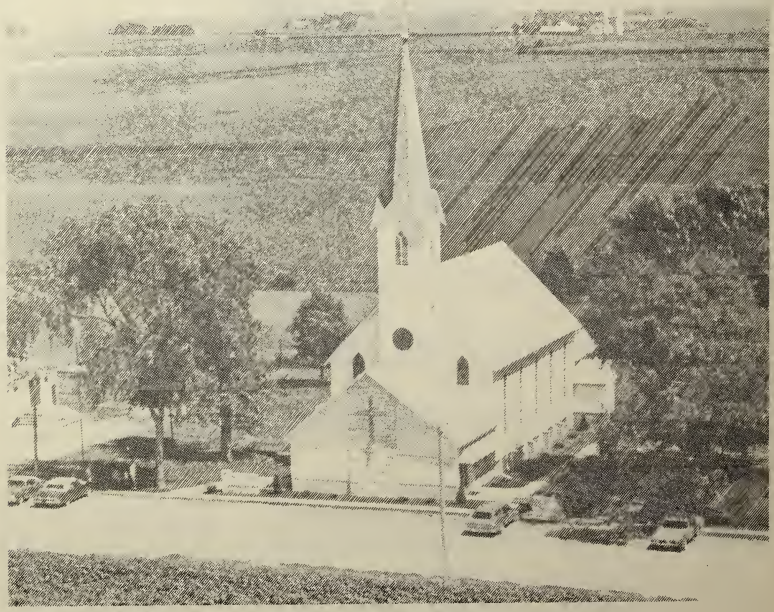
Rev. M. F. Scheel (1943-1949), Rev. Wm. Reddel (1949-1957) Rev. E. Modlenhauer (1958-1961), Rev. Robert Stohlman (1963-1967), Rev. R. Dean Mues (1968-1973). Since 1974 Pastor Bruce L. Zimmermann has been the shepherd of the congregation.

Since 1977, when Immanuel and Readlyn St. Paul parochial schools merged, the congregations have supported seven teachers in grades preschool through eight. At present 145 students are enrolled. The congregation still maintains active Bible classes, A Sunday school, Ladies Aid, a Young People's Society, a Parent-Teachers Orgnaization, and a choir.

Ten sons of the congregation have entered the holy ministry: Herman Meier, Carl Hesse, Louis Richmann, Theo. Eickelberg, Clarence Matthias, Martin Schmidt, Bernard Bruch, Harold Schmidt, Lawrence Schmidt, and Reuben Steinbronn. Mr. Robert Huebner and Mr. Lyle Matthias have entered the teaching profession. The following young women from the congregation became teachers in our parochial schools: Elanore Vogel, Arlene Vogel, Margaret Schmidt, Doris Schmidt, Ramona Rathe, Edith Schmidt, Marlene Huebner, Ann Reddel, Joyce Piehl, Mary Huebner, Sandra Otoo, Ilene Riley, Judy Warneke, Elaine Warneke, Kathy Otto, Susan Matthias, Diane Diercks, Carol Otto, Sharon Schmidt and Donna Widdel.

Immanuel congregation continues to worship and serve the Triune God as it teaches and proclaims the truth of God's work in Christ to the community and spreads the Gospel of Jesup Christ, our Savior, throughout the world as pard of the work and mission of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



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